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Docket No. 29094/12:1

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **METHOD FOR IMPROVING THE ACCURACY OF CHARACTER RECOGNITION PROCESSES**, the specification of which was filed on July 31, 2001, as United States Patent Application No. 09/919,769.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

NONE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of the United States provisional application listed below:

60/221,695

(Application Number)

July 31, 2000

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 that became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

NONE

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application, to file any corresponding international application(s), and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reg. No.</u>
Paul S. Angello	30,991
Kassim M. Ferris	39,974
Shaukat Karjeker	34,049
Kevin B. Laurence	38,219
Michael L. Levine	33,947
Steven J. Munson	47,812
Christopher V. Panoff	46,456
Richard B. Preiss	36,640
Micah D. Stolowitz	32,758
Katherine A. Walter	47,162
James L. Wolfe	33,623
Scott F. Young	45,249

Direct all telephone calls to Christopher V. Panoff at telephone number (503) 224-3380.

Address all correspondence to:

STOEL RIVES LLP
900 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2600
Portland, Oregon 97204-1268

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and

further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: **Stephen E. M. Billester**

Inventor's signature: Stephen E. M. Billester Oct. 2, 2001
Date

Residence: Bothell, Washington

Citizenship: United States of America

Post Office address: 16650 NE 79th Street, Suite 200
Redmond, Washington 98052
